

# INTERIOR DESIGN<sup>®</sup>

MAY  
2018



office insider

# WALKthrough firm: plh arkitekter site: singapore



## Wave of the future

In reception at the headquarters of Sivantos Group, a hearing-aid manufacturer, fins of CNC-routed, powder-coated MDF reference sound waves. ➤

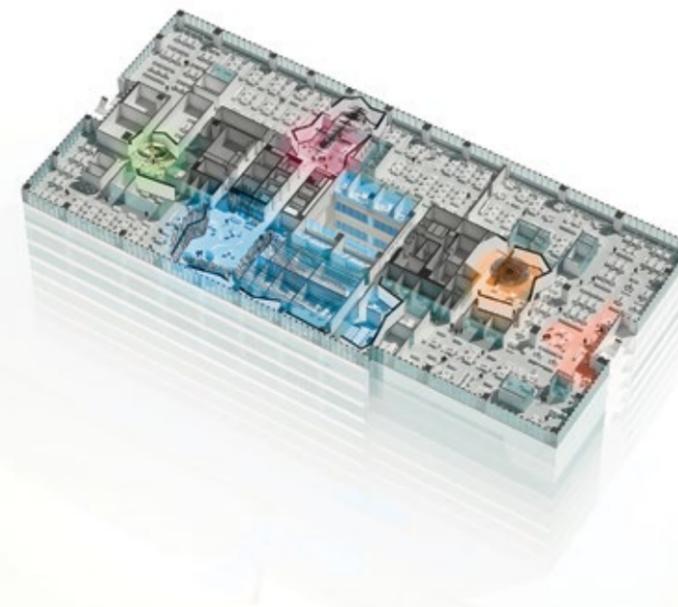


## WALK through

*Clockwise from top: Chairs by Form Us With Love furnish the cafeteria. Seating by Anderssen + Vall, Busk + Herzog, and Iksos-Berlin supplement reception's built-in bench. Custom bulletin boards hang on the wall of a meeting room. Wave-shape vinyl provides privacy inside glass-fronted conference rooms.*

**In 1878**, German industrialist Werner von Siemens devised a telephone with incredibly sharp transmission. His company, Siemens, spent the next 137 years becoming a leader in audio technology. Then, in 2015, Sivantos Group spun off from Siemens to become one of the world's foremost manufacturers of hearing aids. When Sivantos needed a new corporate headquarters for its 600 employees in Singapore, it enlisted PLH Arkitekter to transform three floors of 143,000 raw square feet.

PLH responded by wrapping one side of the reception area with hundreds of fins, their undulations



inspired by the forms of sound waves. Made of CNC-routed MDF and spaced 1½ inches apart, the shiny white fins ripple down from the ceiling and wall into a long bench. "We were most excited about designing the sound wall," PLH senior designer Kaan Alpagut recalls.

Counterbalancing all the white in reception are swells of saturated color. The blue of the Sivantos logo enters the scheme in the wall paint of the adjacent pantry and in the carpeting for the open office areas

throughout. The latter features break-out areas (with such names as sound of celebration and sound of nature) anchored by built-in seating upholstered in fabric ranging from teal to coral. "The intention was to instill an atmosphere that's vibrant and entrepreneurial," Alpagut says. Bulletin boards in oranges and reds enliven meeting rooms, while chairs in the cafeteria host a more pastel palette of pinks, yellows, and greens.

Additional nods to sound waves appear in the pattern of the vinyl privacy film on the glazing fronting ➤

## WALK through

*From top: Recycled-nylon carpet tile flows through office areas. Wool-nylon upholsters a break-out area's custom built-in banquette. Reception's linoleum flooring leads back to a pantry.*



conference rooms and offices. One audible reference is more subtle: In select areas, maple-veneered paneling is acoustically treated. Even in the hushed environment, the Sivantos mission to provide hearing for all comes through loud and clear.

—Jesse Dorris

**FROM FRONT MUUTO:** CHAIRS, SOFA, COFFEE TABLE (RECEPTION), PENDANT FIXTURES (CAFETERIA, MEETING ROOM), CHAIRS (MEETING ROOM), ARMCHAIRS (BREAK-OUT AREA). **CAMO:** CHAIR UPHOLSTERY (RECEPTION). **INCLASS:** TABLES (RECEPTION, MEETING ROOM, BREAK-OUT AREA). **RBM:** CHAIRS (CAFETERIA), STOOLS (OFFICE AREA), SQUARE TABLES, STOOLS (BREAK-OUT AREA). **SOFTLINE:** LOUNGE CHAIRS (RECEPTION). **RUG MAKER:** RUGS. **KVADRAT:** SOFA FABRIC (RECEPTION), CHAIR FABRIC (MEETING ROOM), BANQUETTE FABRIC (BREAK-OUT AREA). **JEB PARTITIONS:** STOREFRONT SYSTEM (CONFERENCE ROOMS). **POSH:** CABINETS (OFFICE AREA). **HERMAN MILLER:** DESKS. **BRUNNER:** DINING CHAIRS (BREAK-OUT AREA). **NORDLUX:** PENDANT FIXTURES (BREAK-OUT AREA, PANTRY). **ARROVO:** WALL WASHERS (PANTRY). **THROUGH-OUT LUXSPACE:** SPOTLIGHTS, RECESSED CEILING FIXTURES. **IMPRINT ACOUSTICS:** PANELING. **FORBO:** FLOORING. **DESSO:** CARPET TILE. **DULUX:** COLORED PAINT. **NIPPON:** WHITE PAINT. **GEYER ENVIRONMENTS:** DESIGN CONSULTANT. **BESCON CONSULTING ENGINEERS:** MEP. **COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL:** PROJECT MANAGER. **NGAI CHIN CONSTRUCTION:** GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

